

## Library Books donated to PNG School

As part of the refurbishment of the Gordonvale State High School Resource centre that commenced in 2014 many of our library books were considered surplus to requirements. With the permission and encouragement of Principal Jan Carr and tireless effort and assistance from our former teacher aide Ann Smith we have managed to donate approximately 1.5 tonne worth of library books to a very appreciative High School in Manus, Papua New Guinea.

They finally took delivery of their new resources in March this year. The Papua New Guinea Navy delivered the books first to Port Moresby. This coincided with the donation of Naval ships from the Australian Navy in 2015 before further transport was required to the Manus Island Admiralty group and finally delivery to Manus Secondary School near the Manus capital Lorengau.



Manus Island is a group of islands north of the Papua New Guinea mainland probably most famous to Australians for housing the controversial Manus Island detention centre through a mutual government agreement. I can assure you however this facility is on a separate island completely unattached and independent of the school. Upon hearing of this donation Manus Secondary School remodelled a resource centre to house the books and arranged a ceremony to officially receive this generous donation from representatives of the PNG Navy to school leaders on our behalf.

Thanks again to Jan Carr and Ann Smith for their efforts in this donation.



## Schoolboys Rugby League

Schoolboys Rugby League is underway this term with Gordonvale competing in the tier 1 division for u/15 and Opens. The 15s side came out on top with a resounding 28-10 win against St Augustines in the first fixture, while narrowly being defeated by Cairns State High 18-14 in round two. The welcome addition of players from Yarrabah State School has provided extra strength and speed to the team, who are starting to gel together despite limited availability to train.

Games will be played each Wednesday afternoon at Jones Park, Mann Street, with the U/15 games at 4pm and Opens at 5pm. Please come along and cheer on the Gladiators!



Department of Education and Training

# QParents

Your child's educational journey in your hands

**Would you like to:**

- check your child's timetable on your phone, tablet or computer?
- access your child's report cards online?
- pay school invoices online with a credit card?
- notify the school of your child's absences and monitor attendance?
- engage more closely with your child's school?

Visit [qparents.qld.edu.au](http://qparents.qld.edu.au) to find out more.

## Issue 7 - 2016

### Upcoming Events

- Thursday 19th May** - Aspirations Day
- Wednesday, 25th May** - SUMMIT Launch Information Evening 6pm until 7pm
- Thursday 26th May** - Cairns Career Expo
- Wednesday 1st June** - Year 7 & 8 Vaccinations - Dose 2
- Thursday, 2nd June** - Year 11 Chemistry External Exam 8.50am until 10.20am
- Friday, 10th June until Wednesday, 15th June** - Year 11/12 Block Exams



TCS Cross Country



Year 7 Science Students making parachutes to protect a water balloon. Examining the affects of air resistance on objects

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## From The Principal



Jan Carr

**P&C DAY and IDAHOT DAY** This fortnight I would like to draw our community's attention to two special 'May' days on our calendar. The first is '**P&C Day**', held each year to celebrate the important work undertaken by our parents and citizens associations. This year, P&C Day was held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Gordonvale State High School's P&C and the many ways in which this organisation adds value to the educational experience of our students.

Money raised by our P&C's two businesses, the canteen and uniform shop, support our students to participate in a variety of sporting, cultural and educational activities.

Our P&C are a great group of caring individuals who enjoy meeting on the third Monday of every month, in the school resource centre, at 6:00pm. Together, over a great cup of coffee they initiate discussion, investigate possibilities, imagine the best, make informed decisions and implement plans, aimed at ensuring the best educational experience and outcomes for our students.

I encourage all families of our school to become part of our P&C and thereby actively take part in making school decisions directly affecting our students.

Our second 'May' day event is **IDAHOT Day** (International day against homophobia and transphobia), held this year on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. We plan to acknowledge this day, by providing the opportunity for students to:

- access information displays;
- write messages of support;
- access professionals from organisations such as Yeti and True.

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians declares that 'all Australian governments and all school sectors must provide all students with access to high-quality schooling that is free from discrimination based on gender, language, sexual orientation, pregnancy, culture, ethnicity, religion, health or disability, socioeconomic background or geographic location'.

Inclusive schools are based on respectful relationships between learners and school community members. For students to truly respect each other and their community members, and therefore accept differences within their community, our students must develop an understanding of and an appreciation of diversity. They must also know how to respond appropriately to diversity.

IDAHOT day provides one avenue for our students to learn about valuing, celebrating and responding to diversity.

**NAPLAN** Our Years 7 and 9 students have completed NAPLAN (Literacy and Numeracy) testing. This year we implemented timetabled numeracy and literacy (reading and writing) lessons for all year 7, 8 and 9 classes. We also implemented targeted literacy learning for students who required intensive support. Mrs Laney organised the Learning to Learn lessons to support building our students confidence in themselves as achievers.

Our students during NAPLAN week were impressive in their commitment to do their best in each test, showing exemplary behaviour along the way. The information about individuals and groups of students collected from these tests provides valuable information to us as a school, which we use to inform our programs and support for students. Individual reports will be provided later in the year to each child with the individual results for this year's test.

Thanks Mrs Laney, our NAPLAN operations manager; year 7 and 9 teachers; literacy and numeracy teachers; Mrs Tomic, our master teacher; Mrs Venables, our HOD for Teaching and Learning; our Learning Support Team; students, P&C and parents in helping all of us through this busy week. Special mention must also be made to our Chaplain, Ms Perez for organising a morning breakfast for NAPLAN students.

## Composing Workshop

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, we were privileged to have Dr Kim Cunio from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music workshop with our senior music students. The Queensland Music Festival provided the opportunity for Dr Cunio to workshop our students on composing for film.

In the workshop the students looked at the workflow of writing a film score, how to import films into a music sequencer, writing MIDI lines with a keyboard, using loops to create something of interest, and bouncing out a soundtrack. The workshop helped to prepare the students for their short film composition this term and also gives them the opportunity to enter the Score IT! Competition by thinking about how composers actually write music for films.



## Thank you - Brigadier Mansford - ANZAC Day

My sincerest thanks to all for the wonderful hospitality and the opportunity to be with you and your students on such a memorable occasion. I would hope the following expresses my deep pride in those you teach and an immense respect for the teaching fraternity. As the song goes—"You are the best"

The ANZAC spirit is alive and in full flight

In the days leading up to ANZAC Services I was invited to a number of schools, both Primary and Secondary. For a cranky old basxxxxrd who is so ready to find flaws with our youth (well some of it anyway), it was a very memorable experience and I want to share it with you.

No matter if it was large room or a huge hall, each was full of chattering youngsters who when signaled became silent and attentive. Senior Students who had been delegated with various tasks from the introductions to various readings spoke with clarity and confidence. During the wreath laying, the sight of the little ones, hand in hand and going forward with their tributes of flowers, drawings and other art was incredibly moving.

I know that old soldiers don't cry but I certainly had tears in my eyes when the choir, consisting of the very young, sang both ANZAC National Anthems. Control of such emotions became even more challenging when they sang so beautifully of our nation's past with emphasis on the ANZACs and those who followed them with a song "They are the best".

Well, the youngsters I saw were certainly among the best and how proud we should be of all of them. So here's to a bright future for our great nation and a salute to a dedicated teaching fraternity which continues to help make it so by mentoring our most valuable asset. GM April 2016

### Today's Youngsters- Tomorrow's Leaders

Sweet sounds as the school choir does sing  
Wonderful joy and contentment the voices bring  
Then such pride as our national anthem I hear  
Of our young nation with its beauty far and near

Youth and innocence are on early life's stage  
They need no prompting or to be aided with a written page  
All of them sing from memory with calming voices so clear  
Such a moving scene I will always hold dear

No matter race or religion; be the skin black, brown or white  
To see and hear our "Tomorrow" sing is surely a moving sight  
Confident youngsters side by side and as a team  
Creating a magic spell, singing of where the ANZACs have been

If these youngsters I speak of can be as one  
Why is it their elders brim with hate and use power of a gun?  
The very young and innocent versus hate and war  
It surely begs the question; why and what for?

In time those in the choir will mature and become the older throng  
Go their own ways and hopefully know right from wrong  
To become our leaders with common aims in sight  
To safeguard a way of life for those that follow with all their might

George Mansford © May 2016



## TCS Cross Country

On Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> our school's cross country teams competed at the regional cross country championships. And what a great morning we had. Our 12 years athletes travelled down to Gordonvale State School, whilst our 13 years and over made their way to St Mary's. Although we had small teams, they were mighty, coming away with spectacular results. We had a number of students place in the medals, and others finishing in the top 6 and making their respective teams to compete for a spot in the Peninsula teams. The senior team also had a top four finish overall - a huge effort for our wee little team. Congratulations to all students for their epic efforts. WELL DONE!



## Senior School News - Mr Robbie Williams - HOD SS

### Assessment Policy

Amendments have been made to the Senior Assessment policy and students need to be aware. All assessment must be submitted to Lyndal at the office either before school or first lunch. No assessment will be accepted second lunch. Students failing to submit assessment will have a time scheduled by their teacher to complete the work in their lunchtime until it is completed. Non-submission and late assessment can and will affect student clearance and QCE attainment.

### Work Experience

All senior school students are eligible to participate in work experience. Grade 10, 11 and 12 students can schedule work experience on the school holidays or during the last week of term as long as this does not affect assessment. Additionally, grade 11 and 12 students may schedule their work experience for Thursdays, upon approval from the senior school office. It is the student's responsibility to source the organisation where the work experience will take place and complete the paperwork with Trish in B13. Paperwork must be submitted two weeks prior to the intended start of work experience to ensure participation.

### Year 10 JCU trip

Grade 10 students have the opportunity to go to a JCU experience day on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. To sign up, students need to register their interest with Trish in B13. There will be a small cost associated with transport for this event. Limited places are available.

## Block Exams

### Senior Block Exams – 10-15 June 2016

Block Exams provide Senior Students important opportunities to take time to organise and prepare themselves for key assessment points in the year. In the senior years of schooling the culminating assessment tasks all seem to fall at the same time. To ease the work load on students we offer block exams at the end of Term 2 and 3. In this time students are released from their normal school timetable in order to concentrate on study for specific exams. In most cases student assessment load per day is also reduced from five potential tasks a day to two tasks a day.

Block Exams will run from Friday 10 June until Wednesday 15 June for year 11 and 12 students. The block exam schedule will be **emailed** to all year 11 and 12 students and any year 11 and 12 parents who currently have up to date email addresses registered with the school.

During Block Exams Year 11 and 12 students:

- are only required to attend school for sessions where they have exams scheduled;
- must wear complete and correct school uniform to exam sessions;
- who need to stay at school will work in the designated study rooms during session times;

**Students absent from a block exam session will need a medical certificate to justify their absence. Failure to attend a block exam session is treated in the same manner as a non-submitted assessment task, and may result in the cancellation of the student's enrolment.**

### 11 Chemistry External Exam trial

A new system for senior assessment and tertiary entrance will be introduced by the Queensland Government for students entering year 11 in 2018. As part of this process the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is

- redeveloping senior syllabuses
- trialling external assessment in some subjects
- and trialling processes for improving the quality and comparability of school-based assessment.

Gordonvale State High School year 11 Chemistry students will be participating in the external exam trial on Thursday 2 June. Miss Batterham has been working with students throughout the semester to prepare them for this exam. Feedback from this trial forms an essential part of the development of the new assessment process.

For more information on the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems visit the [QCAA website](#).



Queensland Government



Queensland Curriculum  
& Assessment Authority

## Musical Magic

Rehearsals for the musical "What's New Pussycat?" are in full swing. A cast of about 40 students from years 7-12 have been enthusiastically rehearsing acting, singing, and dancing scenes during lunch times and after school since half way through Term 1. The team are enjoying getting to know one another while learning new, invaluable skills in communication and self-confidence.

The story follows a modest young man named Harry (played by Will, Year 8) and his ambitious talking cat (played by Briana, Year 11) on their journey to find wealth, happiness, and love. Along the way, the comical team meet many interesting characters including a Witch (played by Lucy, Year 11), a Troll (played by Makana, Year 11) as well as three hilariously loveable senior citizens Doris, Dora, and Daisy (played by Kaitlyn, Year 11; Jade, Year 12; and Alyssa Year 12). So far, over 30 staff members have volunteered to be part of the musical crew to help bring this production to life. Parents and interested members of the community who would like to help with set construction, as well as prop and costume design are encouraged to make themselves known to the producers (Tennille Farnsworth, Amanda Coutts, and Erica Seeger). Performance dates are the 17th, 18th, and 19th of August. This photo shows Will, Briana, and Shayna rehearsing the opening scene on a Wednesday afternoon rehearsal.



Important notice to all cast members: Sunday rehearsals begin in Week 6 and will run every Sunday 9:30 - 12:30 until the performance.

## Strategies for Success

At this stage of the term, students are focussed on their learning and working on assessment. Regular study habits are important for success in all subjects - especially English. Great assignments don't just happen overnight, they need careful consideration, planning and re-working just to develop the ideas. The drafting process is just that, a process. You can't expect your first attempt at writing to be perfect. So allow time to: revise your content; proofread your spelling, punctuation and grammar; check the genre structure and develop your ideas further. Take time to sleep on it and come back to the assignment the next day when you feel fresh and get a peer (student in the class) sibling or family member to check it for you. Make sure by the time you submit your draft to the teacher it is the best possible work you can produce to date. That way the teacher can provide you with meaningful advice on how to take your work to the next level; not simply repeat what you already know.

Follow these 6 simple steps:

- Develop idea
- Plan
- Write
- Draft
- Check
- Submit

***The irony is .....If you fail to plan – you plan to fail***



## Mulgrave Cross Country

On Friday 6th of May, 10 energetic grade 7 students headed down to GSS to compete in the Mulgrave Cross Country Championships. Competing against schools from the surrounding region all students are to be congratulated on a fantastic effort, especially in the heat. Liam won the 12 years 3km race in a new record time of 11:18 also smashing 6 seconds off his previous run. Blake placed 5th meaning that both boys are off to the Peninsula Trials. Well done!

After the students had completed their races, they joined Mr Troyahn at the water station to help hand water to the younger students running. The help was greatly appreciated and students volunteered to help pack up the course at the end. Each student is to be commended for their sportsmanship and actions, role modelling how great students from Gordonvale High really are.

Well done! Mr Troyahn

